

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

**BRITTANY MCHENRY,  
Plaintiff,**

**-against-**

**FOX NEWS NETWORK, LLC; FOX  
ENTERTAINMENT GROUP; NEWS  
CORPORATION; FOX CORPORATION;  
GEORGE MURDOCH (A/K/A “TYRUS”);  
JENNIFER RAUCHET; JOHN FINLEY;  
and MONICA MEKEEL,**

**Defendants.**

**Case Number:** 1:19-cv-11294

**COMPLAINT**

**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

Plaintiff BRITTANY MCHENRY, by and through her attorneys, The Bloom Firm, hereby files this Complaint against Defendants FOX NEWS NETWORK, LLC, FOX ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, NEWS CORPORATION, FOX CORPORATION (collectively “Fox News” or “Entity Defendants), GEORGE MURDOCH (a/k/a “TYRUS”), JENNIFER RAUCHET, JOHN FINLEY, and MONICA MEKEEL. Plaintiff alleges upon knowledge concerning her own experience and upon information and belief as to all other matters.

**I. OVERVIEW**

1. After payouts of over \$100 million in recent sexual harassment scandals, Fox News publicly says it now has “zero tolerance” for sexual harassment. This is a dangerous lie. In practice, Fox News remains a sanctuary for sexual harassers, coddling and enabling the men who abuse female employees. Even in 2019, Fox News' actions demonstrate a great deal of tolerance for a male employee who repeatedly propositioned his female co-host in texts, rewarding him with his own show. The only “zero tolerance” Fox News has demonstrated is for the woman who complained about the sexual harassment four

times -- refusing to investigate some of her claims, shunning her, shutting her out of company events, and refusing to allow her on Fox News Channel shows.

2. For months in 2018, Ms. McHenry was crudely sexually harassed by her co-host at Fox News, the broadcast home of serial sexual predators Bill O'Reilly and Roger Ailes. The co-host threatened to send her a "dick pic" over text message, told her he liked her buttocks and legs, and speculated what Ms. McHenry would be like after sexual intercourse. When Ms. McHenry complained to Fox News Human Resources and management, Fox News asked what Ms. McHenry did to provoke her harasser. In accordance with Fox News' long history of tolerating sexual harassment and targeting women who report it, Fox News then punished the victim and rewarded the harasser. Throughout 2019, Fox News retaliated against Ms. McHenry, stripping her of professional opportunities while simultaneously promoting her harasser, giving him his own show.

3. As a result of her treatment by Defendants, Ms. McHenry has suffered humiliation, emotional anguish, derailment of her career, and significant loss of economic opportunities.

## **II. THE PARTIES**

4. Plaintiff BRITTANY MCHENRY ("Plaintiff" or "Ms. McHenry") is an individual residing in Arlington, Virginia.

5. Defendant FOX CORPORATION, is, upon information and belief, a domestic business corporation incorporated in Delaware with its principal place of business in New York City. Fox Corporation subsidiaries include Fox News Group, Fox News Channel, and Fox Nation.

6. Defendant FOX NEWS NETWORK, LLC, is, upon information and belief, a domestic business corporation incorporated in Delaware with its principal place of business in New York City.

7. Defendant FOX ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, is, upon information and belief, a domestic business corporation incorporated in Delaware with its principal place of business in New York City.

8. Defendant NEWS CORPORATION, is, upon information and belief, a domestic business corporation incorporated in Delaware with its principal place of business in New York City.

9. Defendants FOX CORPORATION, FOX NEWS NETWORK, LLC, FOX ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, and NEWS CORPORATION are collectively referred to as the “Fox News” or “Entity Defendants.”

10. Defendant GEORGE MURDOCH (a/k/a “TYRUS”) (“Mr. Murdoch”), is an individual who, upon information and belief, resides in Louisiana. Mr. Murdoch co-hosted *Un-PC* with McHenry from September 2018 to April 2019 on Fox Nation and now hosts his own show on Fox Nation called *Nuff Said*.

11. Defendant JENNIFER RAUCHET (“Ms. Rauchet”) is an individual who, upon information and belief, resides in New York. Rauchet has been an Executive Producer at Fox News Channel from April 2006 to the present.

12. Defendant JOHN FINLEY (“Mr. Finley”) is an individual who, upon information and belief, resides in New York. Finley has been a Vice President at Fox News Channel since approximately 2000.

13. Defendant MONICA MEKEEL (“Ms. Mekeel”) is an individual who, upon information and belief, resides in New York. Mekeel has worked for Fox News Channel and Fox Corporation as a Human Resources Consultant and Senior Vice President from February 2017 to the present.

### **III. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

14. This Court has jurisdiction over this suit pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332, as the parties are completely diverse in citizenship and the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000.

15. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants pursuant to New York Civil Practice Law and Rules (“C.P.L.R.”) Sections 301 and 302 because the Defendants are located in New York and/or transact business in New York.

16. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants pursuant to C.P.L.R. Section 302 because Defendants committed tortious acts causing injury to Ms. McHenry in New York State.

17. Venue is proper pursuant to C.P.L.R. § 503 based on Defendant Fox News Network LLC's principle place of business, located at 1211 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10036.

#### **IV. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

##### **FOX NEWS' CULTURE OF MISOGYNY ABUSES, HARASSES, SILENCES, AND DESTROYS THE CAREERS OF WOMEN**

18. Paragraphs 18 through 60 are alleged on information and belief, based on reports from reputable news agencies.

19. Since its inception and continuing to today, Fox News has had a sexual harassment problem. Roger Ailes, arguably the most powerful man in American media during his 1996-2016 run as CEO of Fox News, set workplace precedent and spawned a hostile environment of rampant sexual harassment, sexual assault, overt misogyny, and retaliation among Fox News' organizations. Mr. Ailes normalized the practice of senior male executives and anchors preying on subordinate female employees.

20. Fox News hyper-sexualizes and polices the appearance of on-air female talent. To this day, Fox News encourages its "leg cam" to linger on women's bare legs. When women exercise their legal right to demand a workplace free of sexual abuse and retaliation, Fox News refuses to allow independent investigators to reach the truth, and instead covers up wrongdoing and helps abusers thrive. Some examples, from over the years:

21. **2004:** Fox News' top-rated host Bill O'Reilly settles a sexual harassment claim with former producer Andrea Mackris. After she complains, Fox News and Mr. O'Reilly file a lawsuit against her for extortion. She countersues, alleging that Mr. O'Reilly made unwanted sexual advances and lewd comments in a series of phone calls and dinner conversations. Mr. O'Reilly

and/or Fox reportedly pay her \$9 million to settle her claims. Ms. Mackris has not worked in TV since.

22. **2007:** Fox News correspondent Catherine Herridge makes several complaints to senior executives regarding employment practices she believed were discriminatory on the basis of gender and age. Fox executive Dianne Brandi purports to investigate these claims and later notifies Ms. Herridge that no evidence of discrimination was found. When Ms. Herridge's contract is up for renewal in 2008, Ms. Brandi attempts to include new language in Ms. Herridge's employment contract which would preclude Ms. Herridge from bringing discrimination complaints in the future. As result of Fox News' refusal to proceed with a new employment contract absent retaliatory language, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC") files a lawsuit against Fox for unlawful retaliation.

23. **2011:** Rebecca Gomez Diamond, a former host on the Fox Business Network, receives a settlement payment from Mr. O'Reilly after she brings sexual harassment claims against him. Ms. Gomez Diamond has recordings of Mr. O'Reilly, and as part of the deal, she agrees not to speak about her allegations. She has not worked in TV news since.

24. **2014:** Gabriel Sherman releases his Roger Ailes autobiography, in which he speaks to television producer Randi Harrison, who claims Mr. Ailes offered her a \$400-a-week job at NBC, saying: "If you agree to have sex with me whenever I want, I will add an extra hundred dollars a week."

25. **2015:** Three female makeup artists at Fox News, Lena Jemmott, Hilda Correa-LaPolla, and Maureen Walsh, file a complaint with the EEOC in which they accuse Fox News of discriminating against them based on their gender.

26. **June 2016:** Ms. Jemmott files a complaint for employment discrimination against Fox News. That claim reportedly went into mediation.

27. **July 2016:** Former Fox News anchor Gretchen Carlson sues Mr. Ailes, accusing him of sexual harassment. Her charges, which include the

accusation that Mr. Ailes asked her for a sexual relationship, kick off numerous allegations against Mr. Ailes. 21st Century Fox reportedly spends \$20 million to settle with Ms. Carlson, and Fox News publicly apologizes “for the fact that Gretchen was not treated with the respect and dignity that she and all of our colleagues deserve.”

28. **July 2016:** Former Fox News reporter Rudi Bakhtiar claims that she was fired by Mr. Ailes at the news network nearly a decade ago after reporting sexual harassment by the incoming Washington DC bureau chief Brian Wilson. A mediator reportedly orders Fox News to pay her \$670,000 remaining on her three-year contract, as well as her legal fees.

29. **July 2016:** Mr. Sherman interviews several more women who allege that Mr. Ailes sexually harassed them, including former Republican National Committee field adviser Kellie Boyle, who says that Mr. Ailes propositioned her in 1989, and Marsha Callahan, a former model who says Mr. Ailes harassed her in the late sixties.

30. **July 2016:** Eventually, after a reported two dozen Fox News women employees accuse Mr. Ailes of sexual harassment and/or retaliation, Mr. Ailes is forced to resign. However, in Rupert Murdoch’s public statement regarding Mr. Ailes’ resignation, Rupert Murdoch thanks Mr. Ailes for his “remarkable contribution” to the network, disregarding Mr. Ailes’ many victims. Mr. Ailes receives \$40 million from Fox News and remains a consultant. Rather than cleaning house, Rupert Murdoch keeps Mr. Ailes’ most loyal senior executives – Ms. Brandi, Bill Shine, and Suzanne Scott – the same individuals who played an active role in condoning, perpetuating, and covering up the rampant incidents of sexual harassment and sexual assault at Fox News.

31. **July 2016:** Former Fox News director of booking Laurie Luhn tells *New York Magazine* that Mr. Ailes “psychologically tortured” her for twenty years after she accepted his offer of career opportunities in exchange for sexual favors. Even though Luhn signed a \$3.15 million settlement with Fox that included very strict nondisclosure clauses, she went public with her story.

32. **August 2016:** Former Fox News host Laurie Dhue claims she was sexually harassed by Mr. Ailes, with her lawyer alleging that Mr. Ailes asked her if she was wearing underwear while jumping on the trampoline with his son.

33. **August 2016:** Shelly Ross writes an essay for *The Daily Beast* about her own experiences with Mr. Ailes, who allegedly proposed a “sexual alliance” to mutually benefit their work.

34. **August 2016:** Fox News host Andrea Tantaros files a lawsuit against Fox News, Mr. Ailes, and several other senior executives, including Mr. Shine, Ms. Brandi, Ms. Scott, and Irena Briganti. Ms. Tantaros accuses the network of retaliation after she complained of sexual harassment.

35. **September 2016:** Mr. Shine is promoted to Co-President of Fox News, even after having been accused in multiple lawsuits of covering up sexual harassment within Fox and dismissing concerns from women who complained about it. Mr. Shine was described as Mr. Ailes’ “foot soldier,” “right-hand man,” and “unofficial policeman.” Mr. Shine shares the same sexist attitudes as Mr. Ailes, once publicly praising TV personality Elisabeth Hasselbeck for projecting the image “that after the show, Elisabeth’s going home and she is changing a couple of diapers” instead of “writing books and doing book tours.”

36. **November 2016:** Former Fox News anchor Megyn Kelly releases her memoir, *Settle for More*, in which she alleges that Mr. Ailes sexually harassed her during her time at Fox. Mr. O’Reilly publicly belittles and dismisses her allegations. Ms. Kelly emails Fox executives to report that Mr. O’Reilly is intimidating female victims who have the right to come forward. Mr. Shine apparently promises to talk to Mr. O’Reilly, but Mr. O’Reilly later announces on his own show that women should not complain about sexual harassment because it undermines their employer.

37. **December 2016:** Fox 5 reporter Lidija Ujkic (known as Lidia Curunaj) files a discrimination and hostile work environment suit against 21st Century Fox, Fox Entertainment Group LLC, Fox Television Studios LLC, and

News Director Byron Harman. Her allegations include reports that Mr. Ailes sexually harassed her.

38. **January 2017:** Reports emerge that 21st Century Fox executives secretly struck a six-figure agreement with longtime broadcaster Juliet Huddy, who had come forward with similar accusations about Mr. O'Reilly.

39. **January 2017:** Ms. Correa-LaPolla and Ms. Maureen Walsh file a legal suit against Fox, alleging that despite outstanding reviews, they were discriminated against and fired for retaliation after complaining about the company's "locker room" climate.

40. **April 2017:** Even though it was aware of and had contributed to a string of settlements with victims of sexual harassment (amounting to a total of \$13 million from Mr. O'Reilly and the company since 2004), Fox News renews Mr. O'Reilly's contract, vowing to stand by their man.

41. **April 2017:** Former Fox News political commentator Julie Roginsky says that Mr. Ailes sexually harassed her while he promised a big promotion, according to a new lawsuit. The suit also names Mr. Shine as a defendant, and makes allegations about several senior figures, including Ms. Brandi, Ms. Scott, and Ms. Briganti.

42. **April 2017:** Three women come forward with detailed allegations of sexual harassment by Mr. O'Reilly: psychologist and radio TV personality Dr. Wendy Walsh, Fox News clerical worker Perquita Burgess, and associate professor of politics and political commentator Dr. Caroline Heldman. Mr. O'Reilly is forced to resign. Thanks to his wrongfully renewed contract, it is believed that he receives a pay-off of approximately \$25 million.

43. **April 2017:** Ms. Tantaros files an additional lawsuit against Fox News alleging illegal electronic surveillance and online harassment of her.

44. **April 2017:** Former Fox News anchor Alisyn Camerota accuses Mr. Ailes of sexually harassing her by saying "grossly inappropriate" things to her and once inviting her to a hotel room when she asked for new opportunities at work.

45. **May 2017:** Mr. Shine, longtime henchman of Mr. Ailes, finally resigns.

46. **May 2017:** Reporter Diana Falzone sues Fox News Network for discriminating against her on the basis of her gender and her fight against a chronic disease.

47. **May 2017:** Ms. Scott replaces Mr. Shine as CEO of Fox News and Fox Business Network, despite being cited in numerous sexual harassment lawsuits. It is reported that she retaliated against women who made sexual harassment complaints, and fully supported the hostile and demeaning work environment fostered by Fox News for its female talent. NPR reported that a Fox News staffer said that Ms. Scott was “worse than Shine” in deflecting concerns of women.

48. **May 2017:** Kathleen Lee, a shift editor at Fox News Radio, and Naima Farrow, a former accounts payable coordinator, file separate lawsuits against Fox.

49. **July 2017:** Jamie Horowitz, president of Fox Sports National Networks, is let go amid multiple allegations of sexual harassment.

50. **July-September 2017:** Host of Fox Business’ “Making Money,” Charles Payne, is suspended amid allegations of sexual harassment and sexual assault; he returns to airwaves once he is purportedly cleared in an internal investigation.

51. **September 2017:** Eric Bolling, host of “Fox News Specialists,” is let go after sending unsolicited photos of male genitalia to female colleagues.

52. **October 2017:** Reports emerge that Mr. O’Reilly paid former Fox News legal analyst Lis Wiehl an astonishing \$32 million to settle her claims of sexual harassment against him.

53. **October 2017:** Ms. Kelly publicly declares that Mr. O’Reilly is making false assertions related to the complaints against him, and that Fox executives, including Ms. Briganti, continue to retaliate against women for reporting sexual harassment and discrimination. “This must stop,” Ms. Kelly

says. “The abuse of women, the shaming of them, the threatening, the retaliation, the silencing of them after the fact — it has to stop.” Fox releases a statement lending its “full support” to Ms. Briganti.

54. **November 2017:** Fox News contributor Geraldo Rivera defends sexual harasser Matt Lauer by saying that “News is a flirty business.”

55. **November 2017:** 21st Century Fox reaches a \$90 million settlement of a shareholder derivative action arising from claims that the company had allowed racial and sexual harassment to pervade the company’s culture, resulting in reputational and financial harm.

56. **December 2017:** Rupert Murdoch, founder of News Corporation and former Chairman and CEO of Fox Corporation, dismisses all sexual harassment allegations at Fox: “It’s all nonsense. . . That was largely political because we are conservative.” Many of the female accusers were also conservative. He claims that the allegations against Mr. Ailes were “isolated incidents” and that “there has been nothing else” since his ouster. Approximately ten former and current Fox employees tell *HuffPost* that this is a blatant lie: “I have had to put up with a hostile work environment for years, and now I’m told that it doesn’t exist by a man who doesn’t have to walk these halls every day?”

57. **December 2017:** Fox News’ chief Washington correspondent, James Rosen, departs amidst rumors of a pattern of sexually harassing behavior.

58. **March 2019:** An audio clip of Fox News personality Tucker Carlson emerges in which Mr. Carlson says that: arranged marriages between adults and children are not “the same thing exactly as pulling a child from a bus stop and sexually assaulting that child.... The rapist in this case has made a lifelong commitment to live and take care of the person, so it is a little different”; sex workers are “slutty and pathetic”; women are “extremely primitive, they’re basic, they’re not that hard to understand”; and in response to a story about girls at his fourteen-year-old daughter’s boarding school experimenting sexually with each other: “If it weren’t my daughter, I would love that scenario.”

59. As a general pattern and practice, Fox stands behind its on-air talent despite conduct and comments that can only be described as sexist, misogynistic, and discriminatory. Not only did Fox remain silent when Mr. Carlson brushed off critiques of his above comments as “bewildering,” they also continue to support Steve Doocy after he was accused of sexually harassing his co-host Gretchen Carlson, and Tomi Lahren after she publicly accused Senator Kamala Harris of “sleep[ing] [her] way to the top.”

60. It is no wonder, against this backdrop, that Ms. McHenry’s harasser felt emboldened.

### **MS. MCHENRY’S PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND AND SUCCESSFUL CAREER HISTORY CATCHES THE ATTENTION OF FOX NEWS**

61. Ms. McHenry graduated from Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism and began her broadcast journalism career working for WJLA-TV, an ABC Television Washington affiliate as a sports reporter and fill-in anchor.

62. In March 2014, Ms. McHenry was hired as an ESPN reporter in Washington, DC and was a correspondent on ESPN shows such as *SportsCenter*, *Outside the Lines*, *NFL Live*, and *Baseball Tonight*.

63. In August 2017, Ms. McHenry appeared for the first time on Fox News Channel on *Tucker Carlson Tonight*. Ms. McHenry’s on-air talent was apparent, she was invited back on the show, and became a regular guest on other Fox News Channel programs including *Fox & Friends* and *Watters’ World*.

64. In March 2018, WTTG, a Washington Fox News affiliate, hired Ms. McHenry to co-host a show called *Like It or Not* a news show where the co-hosts weighed in on current events.

65. Ms. McHenry’s talent caught the attention of John Finley, Vice President at Fox News. On or about July 18, 2018, Fox News hired Ms. McHenry to host *Un-PC*, a talk show covering politics and entertainment on the Fox Nation streaming service. Fox also hired George Murdoch (a/k/a “Tyrus”), a former

professional wrestler, to co-host *Un-PC* with Ms. McHenry. Additionally, Ms. McHenry was hired as a contributor by local Fox News channel WTTG.

### **MR. MURDOCH SEXUALLY HARASSES MS. MCHENRY**

66. Ms. McHenry first met Mr. Murdoch in late August 2018 at a dinner hosted by Fox News. Beginning in September of 2018, they met in New York every week for rehearsals. Ms. McHenry was eager to make the show a success and was friendly with Mr. Murdoch so that they could forge a professional and dynamic working relationship that would translate to a good on-air rapport.

67. Ms. McHenry learned quickly of Mr. Murdoch's volatile, and at times disturbing relationships with others, especially with women.

68. Mr. Murdoch told Ms. McHenry that his girlfriend was jealous of her and had sent her (and subsequently deleted) a threatening Instagram message.

69. Mr. Murdoch also told Ms. McHenry that the mother of one of his children had accused him of abusing drugs, threatening her and her children, and being unsafe to be around. This made Ms. McHenry scared and anxious. She felt the need to be careful around him to make sure she did not cause him to be angry.

70. Mr. Murdoch began displaying volatile and unpredictable behavior at work. At the Fox Nation summit in 2018, Mr. Murdoch refused to take a group photo with co-worker Tomi Lahren, despite being directed to by Fox News Vice President John Finley. On another occasion, Mr. Murdoch threw a temper tantrum rather than film a segment with actor Stephen Baldwin.

71. Despite his bizarre behavior, Ms. McHenry put forth considerable effort to try and appease him and maintain a jovial relationship with him so as to not be the next victim of his lashing out.

72. Mr. Murdoch began making sexual advances to Ms. McHenry and making sexually harassing comments to her. He started sending her inappropriate text messages.

73. On October 31, 2018, Mr. Murdoch texted Ms. McHenry, "I love pony tails and braids you look amazing and it's a real turn on not that you care but I love it[.]"

74. On November 2, 2018, Mr. Murdoch texted Ms. McHenry, “I love your legs // Fuck them your beautiful I love that picture // Is it creepy how I look at you ??? // FYI you’ll need those legs to escape from me in Montana // I please especially on your knees hotness[.]”

75. On November 5, 2018, Mr. Murdoch texted Ms. McHenry, “I’ll show you what it mean to be bad Brittany Mc Henry // Dick pic coming in 5 sec!!!!”

76. Ms. McHenry maintained a friendly relationship with Mr. Murdoch, and at one point thought that they were becoming good friends. Ms. McHenry continued to do her best to not upset Mr. Murdoch out of fear of his volatile tendencies and fear that angering him would drastically hurt the show she had worked so hard to achieve. As such, she politely replied to his grossly sexualized texts with friendly but non-sexual responses. Ms. McHenry never crossed the line or sent Mr. Murdoch any sexual messages.

77. On or about November 6, 2018, after a taping, Ms. McHenry and Mr. Murdoch went to dinner together in Times Square. Mr. Murdoch drank alcohol excessively at dinner. On the walk back to their hotel, provided by Fox, Mr. Murdoch grabbed Ms. McHenry’s hand and held it in an aggressive and overtly sexualized manner. Ms. McHenry did not want to upset Mr. Murdoch. After a minute, she was able to take her hand away. When they got back to the hotel, Ms. McHenry left Mr. Murdoch in the lobby, told the doorman to look after him, and rushed up to her room.

78. Despite this display of resistance, Mr. Murdoch continued to sexually harass Ms. McHenry by making sexually inappropriate comments to her in person, and also via text message.

79. On November 17, 2018, Mr. Murdoch texted Ms. McHenry, “The picture looks so good I would knock the picture up .... crazy sexy love your legs[.]”

80. On November 18, 2018, Mr. Murdoch texted Ms. McHenry, “I love the fact your always working if we ever had sex I feel like after an orgazzum you

say speaking of feeling good did see the story on the puppy rescue we should do a segment on it hand me my phone[.]”

81. On December 10, 2018, Mr. Murdoch threatened Ms. McHenry via text, “Keep being negative and I’ll send you another dick pic[.]”

82. On December 31, 2018, while Mr. Murdoch and Ms. McHenry were in New York for separate Fox tapings for New Year’s Eve, Mr. Murdoch learned that Ms. McHenry had brought her boyfriend to New York. Mr. Murdoch immediately became hostile and aggressive towards Ms. McHenry.

**FOX NEWS IGNORES MS. MCHENRY’S  
SEXUAL HARASSMENT REPORT**

83. After Mr. Murdoch realized that Ms. McHenry had a boyfriend, he further harassed and retaliated against her, and created an abusive and hostile work environment for her on set. He generally refused to talk to her unless it was during a taped segment, which had a negative influence on their on-air performances. Sometime in January of 2019, Ms. McHenry told *Un-PC*’s executive producer, Jennifer Rauchet, that Mr. Murdoch had sent her inappropriate texts. To Ms. McHenry’s knowledge, Ms. Rauchet chose to ignore this complaint, did not contact Fox Human Resources about Mr. Murdoch’s harassment and did not otherwise report or investigate him.

84. On February 22, 2019, Mr. Murdoch, without provocation, lashed out at Ms. McHenry on-air on *Un-PC*, telling her that her opinion was “an ignorant point of view,” that she had “no integrity,” and that “only an idiot would say that.” While the two regularly disagreed as part of the show, Mr. Murdoch had never stooped to such a personal level with his attacks. Ms. McHenry was distraught from enduring Mr. Murdoch’s sexual harassment and retaliatory insults. She called Ms. Rauchet, in tears. Ms. McHenry made a second sexual harassment complaint about Mr. Murdoch’s demeaning conduct. Ms. Rauchet acknowledged that Mr. Murdoch was difficult, and told Ms. McHenry that Mr. Murdoch had previously sent her a hostile email about the show. Again, to Ms. McHenry’s

knowledge, Ms. Rauchet chose not to contact Fox Human Resources about Mr. Murdoch’s harassment and chose not to otherwise report or investigate him.

85. From February 2019 to April 2019, Mr. Murdoch’s retaliatory conduct continued. Mr. Murdoch continued to be rude to her and made a point not to speak to Ms. McHenry unless they were on camera. The rare times that Mr. Murdoch was civil to her, she would try to take advantage of the opportunity by inviting him to lunch or otherwise trying to make their partnership work. He did not change.

86. On or around April 12, 2019, Ms. McHenry moved a hockey banner that was hanging up on the *Un-PC* set. In front of their show guest, with his microphone on, Mr. Murdoch yelled at Ms. McHenry to take the banner down, and cursed at her. This was a breaking point for Ms. McHenry, who had endured Mr. Murdoch’s hostile working environment for months. Ms. McHenry, crying, once again went to Ms. Rauchet to make a third report about Mr. Murdoch’s sexual harassment and retaliatory abuse. Ms. Rauchet responded by telling her not to complain – that she was “replaceable,” and that Fox News had never wanted her. When Ms. McHenry tried to continue the conversation, Ms. Rauchet physically walked out on her.

87. Ms. McHenry’s agent emailed Mr. Finley later that evening on Ms. McHenry’s behalf. He made a fourth report about Ms. McHenry’s intolerable work environment, as well as Ms. Rauchet’s inappropriate reaction to Ms. McHenry’s complaint.

**FOX NEWS PUNISHES MS. MCHENRY IN RETALIATION**  
**FOR HER SEXUAL HARASSMENT COMPLAINTS**  
**AND REWARDS MR. MURDOCH FOR CONTINUING**  
**THE FOX LEGACY OF MISOGYNY AND HARASSMENT**

88. Ms. McHenry did not hear back from a Fox News representative until the next week. On or around April 17, 2019, she heard from Monica Mekeel, a Fox News Human Resources representative. Ms. McHenry sent Ms. Mekeel screenshots of some of Mr. Murdoch’s harassing text messages. Ms. Mekeel

requested every text message ever exchanged between Ms. McHenry and Mr. Murdoch, and essentially asked Ms. McHenry what she had done to provoke Mr. Murdoch. Ms. McHenry clarified that she had never wanted nor asked to be sexually harassed, and that Fox’s response to her report is why women do not come forward and report sexual harassment.

89. Fox News told Ms. McHenry that *Un-PC* would resume with her and a new co-host but did not consult with Ms. McHenry about who to select as a new co-host. In the meantime, to Ms. McHenry’s knowledge, Mr. Murdoch was never suspended by Fox. In fact, Fox News even gave Mr. Murdoch his own show, effectively promoting him, and aggressively promoted his new show in their online marketing materials. Mr. Murdoch was offered continued appearances on Fox New Channel’s *The Daily Briefing with Dana Perino* and *The Greg Gutfeld Show*. For Fox Nation talent, appearances on the Fox News Channel have career enhancing value as there are far greater viewers on Fox News Channel than Fox Nation. Additionally, Fox News Channel is the premiere place to be seen for conservative commentators.

90. Fox eventually closed out Ms. McHenry’s complaint after telling her attorney at the time that Mr. Murdoch’s conduct did not constitute sexual harassment because there was no “clear intent to have sex with her.” This is an incorrect statement of New York law.

91. Mr. Murdoch and Greg Gutfeld, a high-profile Fox employee, publicly mocked Fox’s sexual harassment “investigation” on social media. Mr. Gutfeld even reached out to the co-founder of *The Federalist*, where Ms. McHenry occasional writes articles, to criticize him for supporting Ms. McHenry. Fox News did nothing to stymie this conduct, even after Ms. McHenry begged them to stop the retaliation. Fox News refused to respond to Ms. McHenry’s continued complaints, directing her to report them to her attorney.

92. Ms. McHenry experienced other vicious retaliation from Fox News including, but not limited to, the following:

93. Ms. McHenry has received far fewer professional opportunities from Fox since she made her sexual harassment complaint. For example, Ms. McHenry was not invited to report on or cover the MLB All Star Game on Fox News Channel, despite being promised this role when she was first hired (she was also the only female on Fox Nation with national sports network experience and had the most established sports media background on Fox Nation). Ms. McHenry also used to regularly appear on Fox News Channel's *Watters' World*, but has not been booked since her complaint (despite communication from bookers that they wanted her to appear). Notably, Ms. Rauchet is the executive producer of *Watters' World*. In comparison, Mr. Murdoch has appeared on Fox News Channel more than fifty times since the complaint against him.

94. Ms. McHenry was instructed to attend sexual harassment training in May of 2019. She arrived to discover that she was *the only employee in attendance*. She was prohibited from asking questions at the training about her own experience with sexual harassment.

95. Since her sexual harassment complaint, Ms. McHenry has been effectively frozen out by Fox News management. In the past, Fox News managers and executives would check in with Ms. McHenry or stop in to watch her show, but she has not heard from any of them since making her sexual harassment complaint.

96. Fox News invited every Fox Nation host to attend the second annual Fox Nation summit in May of 2019 (including Mr. Murdoch and Ms. McHenry's new *Un-PC* co-host) but did not invite Ms. McHenry.

97. Despite constantly promoting Mr. Murdoch's new show *Nuff Said*, Fox News has provided Ms. McHenry's show with nearly zero marketing, despite Ms. McHenry being the most clicked on personality on the Fox Nation website.

98. Every other Fox Nation host is regularly asked to appear on Fox News Channel to promote Fox Nation. Mr. Murdoch appears on Fox News Channel approximately twice a week and Ms. McHenry's *Un-PC* co-host appears on Fox News Channel almost weekly. Since making her sexual harassment

complaint in April 2019, Ms. McHenry has appeared on Fox News Channel less than ten times.

99. In November 2019, Ms. McHenry witnessed Defendant Rauchet tell a Fox News guest to “keep her distance” from Ms. McHenry because Ms. McHenry was “drama” because she was suing the network. She had not yet brought this lawsuit.

**FOX NEWS’ SHAM INVESTIGATIONS**  
**AND FRAUDULENTLY DOCTORED PHOTOS OF MS. MCHENRY**

100. After Ms. McHenry’s repeated requests for an investigation, Fox News hired an investigator to purportedly investigate Ms. McHenry’s allegations.

101. Fox News hired defense firm DLA Piper to represent them and negotiate the departure of Ms. McHenry. Fox News also assigned the role of conducting an “independent” investigation to DLA Piper, the same firm that was hired to represent Fox News’ interests. As a result of this biased, self-serving, sham investigation, DLA Piper found that there was no evidence of sexual harassment.

102. Ms. McHenry requested a more thorough investigation be conducted by an actual impartial investigator. In response, Fox News hired a different investigator to purportedly investigate her claims.

103. Ms. McHenry submitted to a full day interview on September 12, 2019 in which the “neutral” investigators victim-blamed and argued with Ms. McHenry as to why she did not tell Mr. Murdoch to “tone it down.” The “neutral” investigator denied Ms. McHenry’s request to record the interview. One of the investigators told Ms. McHenry (twice) she was “really pretty” and asked her, “I mean, come on, you didn’t know you were leading him on?” The investigators asked Ms. McHenry zero questions about her retaliation claims and made clear that they were not investigating the retaliation. After the interview, Ms. McHenry reminded Fox News that she had retaliation claims as well, but no further inquiry was ever made into these allegations.

104. On October 18, 2019, the investigators made a finding that there was no sexual harassment. The memorandum further said that Fox News investigated Ms. McHenry's claims of retaliation and found no evidence of retaliation (despite not asking Ms. McHenry a single question about this in her interview and explicitly saying that they were not investigating the retaliation).

105. On October 22, 2019 Fox News counsel produced text messages to Ms. McHenry, acquired during the "investigation," purportedly between Ms. McHenry and Mr. Murdoch. They claimed Ms. McHenry withheld these texts from the investigators, which was critical to the investigators' finding.

106. The two-page screenshot contains two photos purported to be from Ms. McHenry to Mr. Murdoch with her cleavage and nearly bare breast shown. These photos and text messages are fraudulent, doctored, and not of Ms. McHenry. A simple Google Image search shows that the first image was taken from a website and the woman depicted was not Ms. McHenry.

107. Ms. McHenry was shocked and horrified that Mr. Murdoch had doctored text messages between them to make it appear that she was being sexually explicit with him. Mr. Murdoch had also allegedly been circulating these fraudulent text messages to others at Fox News, thereby irreparably harming Ms. McHenry's professional reputation.

108. Ms. McHenry immediately offered to have a forensic expert examine her cell phone to prove that she did not send those messages, provided Mr. Murdoch do the same. To date, Mr. Murdoch has refused to submit to a forensic examination of his phone.

109. Despite the evidence that Mr. Murdoch had submitted fake texts and sexualized photos purportedly of Ms. McHenry during the investigation, Fox News stuck with its finding that Ms. McHenry had not been sexually harassed or retaliated against, and stuck with its policy of rewarding Mr. Murdoch with his own show and many Fox News Channel appearances, while shunning her.

## **V. DAMAGES**

110. As a direct result of the discriminatory and wrongful conduct of

Defendants, Ms. McHenry has suffered, and continues to suffer from severe emotional distress, humiliation, anxiety, and irreparable damage to her professional career.

111. Further, Ms. McHenry is in therapy and has been experiencing stress-induced sickness and migraines as a result of the anxiety caused by the Defendants.

**COUNT I**

**GENDER DISCRIMINATION AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT – NYSHRL**  
**(Against Entity Defendants, Defendant Finley, Defendant Rauchet, and Defendant Mekeel)**

112. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and re-alleges each and every allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs as if set forth in full herein.

113. New York Executive Law Section 296(1)(a) provides that: “It shall be an unlawful discriminatory practice ...[f]or an employer or licensing agency, because of an individual’s age, race, creed, color, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, military status, sex ... to refuse to hire or employ or to bar or to discharge from employment such individual or to discriminate against such individual in compensation or in terms, conditions or privileges of employment.”

114. Plaintiff is a woman and thus a member of a protected class under Section 296(1)(a) of the New York Human Rights Law and under Title 8 of the New York City Administrative Code, section 8-107.

115. Entity Defendants, Defendants Finley, Mekeel, and Rauchet discriminated against Plaintiff in the terms and conditions of her employment on the basis of her gender in violation of the NYSHRL by subjecting Plaintiff to disparate treatment based upon her gender including, but not limited to, subjecting her to sexual harassment and a hostile work environment and refusing to adequately investigate her claims of sexual harassment and discrimination.

116. Plaintiff was discriminated against and subjected to unwelcome sexual harassment, including but not limited to the conduct of Defendant Murdoch.

117. The discrimination and harassment were based upon her sex.

118. The discrimination and harassment were severe and pervasive, thus altering the condition of Plaintiff's employment and creating an abusive work environment.

119. The discrimination and harassment had the purpose and effect of unreasonably interfering with Plaintiff's work performance and creating an intimidating, hostile, and offensive working environment.

120. Entity Defendants, Defendants Finley, Mekeel, and Rauchet and each of them discriminated against Plaintiff by imposing a hostile work environment upon Plaintiff by condoning the conduct of its employees and managers, including the harassing conduct of Defendant Murdoch.

121. Entity Defendants, Defendants Finley, Mekeel, and Rauchet and each of them did not try to prevent the discriminatory and harassing behavior.

122. Entity Defendants, Defendants Finley, Mekeel, and Rauchet and each of them acquiesced in the discriminatory and harassing conduct by creating and allowing to exist a hostile, intolerable, offensive and abusive workplace that a reasonable person would consider intimidating, hostile, or abusive.

123. Entity Defendants, Defendants Finley, Mekeel, and Rauchet condoned the discriminatory and harassing conduct and did not try to promptly correct the discriminatory, harassing, and abusive behavior.

124. As a direct and proximate result of the discriminatory, harassing, and abusive conduct of Entity Defendants, Defendants Finley, Mekeel, and Rauchet and each of them, Plaintiff suffered adverse employment consequences by the conduct of its employees and managers, of which they were well aware and without non-discriminatory basis therefor.

125. As a direct and proximate result of the discriminatory, harassing, and abusive conduct of Entity Defendants, Defendants Finley, Mekeel, and Rauchet,

Plaintiff suffered adverse employment consequences by the conduct of its employees, including loss of future wages, professional opportunities, and other valuable benefits and emoluments of employment, as well as mental anguish and humiliation.

126. Entity Defendants, Defendants Finley, Mekeel, and Rauchet's conduct was willful and motived by malice and/or reckless indifference to Plaintiff's legal rights, entitling her to an award of punitive damages.

## **COUNT II**

### **Gender Discrimination and Sexual harassment – NYCHRL (Against All Defendants)**

127. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and re-alleges each and every allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs as if set forth in full herein.

128. New York City Administrative Code Section 8-107(1)(a) provides that: "It shall be an unlawful discriminatory practice ...[f]or an employer or an employee or agent thereof, because of the actual or perceived ... gender... to refuse to hire or employ or to bar or to discharge from employment such person or to discriminate against such person in compensation or in terms, conditions or privileges of employment."

129. Plaintiff is a woman and thus a member of a protected class under Section 296(1)(a) of the New York Human Rights Law and under Title 8 of the New York City Administrative Code, section 8-107.

130. Defendants discriminated against Plaintiff in the terms and conditions of her employment on the basis of her gender in violation of the NYSHRL by subjecting Plaintiff to disparate treatment based upon her gender including, but not limited to, subjecting her to sexual harassment and a hostile work environment and refusing to adequately investigate her claims of sexual harassment and discrimination.

131. Plaintiff was discriminated against and subjected to unwelcome sexual harassment, including but not limited to the conduct of Defendant Murdoch.

132. The discrimination and harassment were based upon her sex.

133. The discrimination and harassment were severe and pervasive, thus altering the condition of Plaintiff's employment and creating an abusive work environment.

134. The discrimination and harassment had the purpose and effect of unreasonably interfering with Plaintiff's work performance and creating an intimidating, hostile, and offensive working environment.

135. Defendants and each of them discriminated against Plaintiff by imposing a hostile work environment upon Plaintiff by condoning the conduct of its employees and managers, including the harassing conduct of Defendant Murdoch.

136. Defendants and each of them did not try to prevent the discriminatory and harassing behavior.

137. Defendants and each of them acquiesced in the discriminatory and harassing conduct by creating and allowing to exist a hostile, intolerable, offensive and abusive workplace that a reasonable person would consider intimidating, hostile, or abusive.

138. Entity Defendants, Defendants Finley, Mekeel, and Rauchet condoned the discriminatory and harassing conduct and did not try to promptly correct the discriminatory, harassing, and abusive behavior.

139. Defendant Murdoch perpetrated the sexual harassment and hostile work environment of Ms. McHenry.

140. As a direct and proximate result of the discriminatory, harassing, and abusive conduct of Defendants and each of them, Plaintiff suffered adverse employment consequences by the conduct of its employees and managers, of which they were well aware and without non-discriminatory basis therefor.

141. As a direct and proximate result of the discriminatory, harassing, and abusive conduct of Defendants, Plaintiff suffered adverse employment consequences by the conduct of its employees, including loss of future wages,

professional opportunities, and other valuable benefits and emoluments of employment, as well as mental anguish and humiliation.

142. Defendants' conduct was willful and motived by malice and/or reckless indifference to Plaintiff's legal rights, entitling her to an award of punitive damages.

**COUNT III**  
**Retaliation - NYCHRL**  
**(Against Defendants)**

143. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and re-alleges each and every allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs as if set forth in full herein.

144. New York City Administrative Code Section 8-107(7) provides that: "It shall be an unlawful discriminatory practice for any person engaged in any activity to which this chapter applies to retaliate or discriminate in any manner against any person because such person has...opposed any practice forbidden under this chapter....The retaliation or discrimination complained of under this subdivision need not result in an ultimate action with respect to employment...provided, however, that the retaliatory or discriminatory act or acts complained of must be reasonably likely to deter a person from engaging in protected activity."

145. Defendants engaged in gender discrimination against Plaintiff.

146. Plaintiff engaged in protected activity by complaining to Entity Defendants, Defendants Finley, Mekeel, and Rauchet about the sexual harassment and mistreatment based on gender inflicted upon her by Fox News employees and managers, including but not limited to the sexual harassment of Defendant Murdoch.

147. Plaintiff complained about the harassment and gender discrimination at least four times to Entity Defendants, Defendants Finley, Mekeel, and/or Rauchet.

148. Instead of addressing her reports and complaints, Entity Defendants, Defendants Finley, Mekeel, and Rauchet subjected Plaintiff to further harassment

and mistreatment, denied her access to shows on which she had previously appeared, promoted Defendant Murdoch, her harasser, to his own show, refused to market Plaintiff's show, failed to invite Ms. McHenry to key Fox News events, and denied Ms. McHenry of other professional opportunities.

149. Defendant Murdoch retaliated against Ms. McHenry after she rebuffed his sexual advances by ignoring her, cursing at her and berating her on set, and doctoring a fraudulent sexually explicit photo of her and circulating it to Fox News employees.

150. Defendants denied Plaintiff the benefit of employment, including all favorable conditions and emoluments thereof.

151. Defendants' retaliatory tactics were reasonably likely to deter a person from engaging in protective activity, such as resisting sexual advances and complaining about discrimination.

152. Plaintiff suffered adverse employment consequences, including lost past and future wages, professional opportunities, other valuable benefits and emoluments of employment as well as to endure severe emotional pain and trauma, all to her detriment.

153. Defendants' conduct was willful and motived by malice and/or reckless indifference to Plaintiff's legal rights, entitling her to an award of punitive damages.

#### **COUNT IV**

#### **Retaliation - NYSHRL**

#### **(Against Entity Defendants, Defendant Finley, Defendant Mekeel, and Defendant Rauchet)**

154. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and re-alleges each and every allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs as if set forth in full herein.

155. New York City Executive Law Section 296(7) provides that: "It shall be an unlawful discriminatory practice for any person engaged in any activity to which this chapter applies to retaliate or discriminate against any person because he or she person has opposed any practice forbidden under this article or because

he or she has filed a complaint, testified or assisted in any proceeding under this article.”

156. Entity Defendants, Defendants Finley, Mekeel, and Rauchet engaged in gender discrimination against Plaintiff.

157. Plaintiff engaged in protected activity by complaining to Entity Defendants, Defendants Finley, Mekeel, and Rauchet about the sexual harassment and mistreatment based on gender inflicted upon her by Fox News employees and managers, including but not limited to the sexual harassment of Mr. Murdoch.

158. Plaintiff complained about the harassment and gender discrimination at least four times to Entity Defendants, Finley, Mekeel, and/or Rauchet.

159. Instead of addressing her reports and complaints, Entity Defendants, Defendants Finley, Mekeel, and Rauchet subjected Plaintiff to further harassment and mistreatment, denied her access to shows on which she had previously appeared, promoted Defendant Murdoch, her harasser, to his own show, refused to market Plaintiff’s show, failed to invite Ms. McHenry to key Fox News events, and denied Ms. McHenry of other professional opportunities.

160. Entity Defendants, Defendants Finley, Mekeel, and Rauchet denied Plaintiff the benefit of employment, including all favorable conditions and emoluments thereof.

161. Entity Defendants, Defendants Finley, Mekeel, and Rauchet’s retaliatory tactics were reasonably likely to deter a person from engaging in protective activity, such as resisting sexual advances and complaining about discrimination.

162. Plaintiff suffered adverse employment consequences, including lost past and future wages, professional opportunities, other valuable benefits and emoluments of employment as well as to endure severe emotional pain and trauma, all to her detriment.

163. Entity Defendants, Defendants Finley, Mekeel, and Rauchet’s conduct was willful and motived by malice and/or reckless indifference to Plaintiff’s legal rights, entitling her to an award of punitive damages.

## **COUNT V**

### **Aiding and Abetting Gender Discrimination and Retaliation – NYCHRL (Against All Defendants)**

164. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and re-alleges each and every allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs as if set forth in full herein.

165. New York City Administrative Code Section 8-107(6) makes it “an unlawful discriminatory practice for any person to aid, abet, incite, compel or coerce the doing of any of the acts forbidden under this article, or attempt to do so.”

166. All Defendants aided and abetted the gender discrimination and retaliation of Plaintiff.

167. Entity Defendants have, and throughout Plaintiff’s employment had, a continuous practice or policy of discouraging women from reporting sexual harassment and failing to prevent or stop sexual harassment.

168. Entity Defendants foster, and throughout Plaintiff’s employment fostered, an environment where women do not feel comfortable reporting sexual harassment.

169. Entity Defendants has, and throughout Plaintiff’s employment had, a continuous practice or policy of failing to properly investigate complaints of sexual harassment.

170. Entity Defendants have, and throughout Plaintiff’s employment had, a continuous practice or policy of intimidating and/or ignoring employee witnesses to sexual harassment, including but not limited to making threats of adverse employment action should the employees speak out against sexual harassment.

171. Defendant Murdoch aided and abetted the gender discrimination by, among other things, subjecting Plaintiff to months of inappropriate sexual comments, and lashing out at her when she rebuffed his sexual advances.

172. Entity Defendants, Defendants Finley, Mekeel, and Rauchet aided and abetted the gender discrimination by, among other things, failing to promptly

and adequately investigate Plaintiff's claims and failing to stop the gender discrimination.

173. Entity Defendants aided and abetted the gender discrimination by facilitating the retaliation of Plaintiff by, among other things, failing to promote her show, refusing to book her on shows she had previously appeared on, promoting her harasser, shutting her out of Fox News events, and having Fox News management ignore her.

174. As a direct and proximate result of the discriminatory conduct of Defendants and each of them, Plaintiff suffered mental anguish and humiliation, as well as adverse employment consequences, including loss of future wages, professional opportunities, and other valuable benefits and emoluments of employment.

175. Defendants' conduct was willful and motivated by malice and/or reckless indifference to Plaintiff's legal rights, entitling her to an award of punitive damages.

#### **COUNT VI**

#### **Aiding and Abetting Sexual Harassment, Gender Discrimination, and Retaliation – NYSHRL (Against All Defendants)**

176. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and re-alleges each and every allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs as if set forth in full herein.

177. New York Executive Law Section 296(6) makes it "an unlawful discriminatory practice for any person to aid, abet, incite, compel or coerce the doing of any of the acts forbidden under this article, or attempt to do so."

178. All Defendants aided and abetted the gender discrimination and retaliation of Plaintiff.

179. Entity Defendants have, and throughout Plaintiff's employment had, a continuous practice or policy of discouraging women from reporting sexual harassment and failing to prevent or stop sexual harassment.

180. Entity Defendants foster, and throughout Plaintiff's employment fostered, an environment where women do not feel comfortable reporting sexual harassment.

181. Entity Defendants has, and throughout Plaintiff's employment had, a continuous practice or policy of failing to properly investigate complaints of sexual harassment.

182. Entity Defendants have, and throughout Plaintiff's employment had, a continuous practice or policy of intimidating and/or ignoring employee witnesses to sexual harassment, including but not limited to making threats of adverse employment action should the employees speak out against sexual harassment.

183. Defendant Murdoch aided and abetted the gender discrimination by, among other things, subjecting Plaintiff to months of inappropriate sexual comments, and lashing out at her when she rebuffed his sexual advances.

184. Entity Defendants, Defendants Finley, Mekeel, and Rauchet aided and abetted the gender discrimination by, among other things, failing to promptly and adequately investigate Plaintiff's claims and failing to stop the gender discrimination.

185. Entity Defendants aided and abetted the gender discrimination by facilitating the retaliation of Plaintiff by, among other things, failing to promote her show, refusing to book her on shows she had previously appeared on, promoting her harasser, shutting her out of Fox News events, and having Fox News management ignore her.

186. As a direct and proximate result of the discriminatory conduct of Defendants and each of them, Plaintiff suffered mental anguish and humiliation, as well as adverse employment consequences, including loss of future wages, professional opportunities, and other valuable benefits and emoluments of employment.

187. Defendants' conduct was willful and motived by malice and/or reckless indifference to Plaintiff's legal rights, entitling her to an award of punitive damages.

## **COUNT VII**

### **Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress (Against Defendant Murdoch)**

188. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and re-alleges each and every allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs as if set forth in full herein.

189. Defendant Murdoch sexually harassed Plaintiff over a span of several months including sending her sexually explicit text messages, despite Plaintiff making clear that such sexually explicit messages were unwelcome.

190. Defendant Murdoch fraudulently doctored text messages between him and Plaintiff in which it appeared Plaintiff was sending him photos of her cleavage and nearly naked breasts. Defendant Murdoch then circulated these doctored photographs to other employees at Fox News, irreparably harming Plaintiff's reputation.

191. Defendant Murdoch acted in a manner so extreme and outrageous that it exceeds all reasonable bounds of decency.

192. The above conduct was done intentionally and/or recklessly for with the intent to cause severe emotional distress and/or mental trauma to Plaintiff.

193. Defendant Murdoch's conduct caused Plaintiff's injuries.

194. Because of Defendant Murdoch's aforementioned conduct, Plaintiff has suffered, and continues to suffer, severe emotional distress.

195. Because of Defendant Murdoch's intentional and/or reckless conduct, Plaintiff is entitled to all damages permitted by law.

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## **PRAAYER FOR RELIEF**

**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff respectfully prays that this Court grant the following relief against the Defendants:

- A. Award Plaintiff all of her damages under New York Executive Law Section 296(1)(a), New York City Administrative Code Section 8-107(1)(a), New York City Administrative Code Section 8-107(7), New York City Executive Law Section 296(7), New York City Administrative Code Section 8-107(6), New York Executive Law Section 296(6), Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress, and common law, including compensatory damages and punitive damages in an amount in excess of \$75,000 to be determined at Trial.
- B. Award Plaintiff all attorney's fees, costs and expenses available under law;
- C. Award Plaintiff all pre-judgment interest and post judgment interest available under law; and
- D. Award Plaintiff such additional and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

## **VI. DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

Plaintiff hereby requests a trial by jury as to all claims for monetary damages.

DATED: December 10, 2019

Respectfully submitted,

## **THE BLOOM FIRM**

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